Whatever the palatability of spiders to dragonflies, or the frequency of their encounters, the precise and seemingly calculated movements of this specimen certainly indicate that there is still a lot to be discovered about the hunting and feeding behaviour of dragonflies and other insects. RICHARD A. JONES, Garden Flat, 131 Chadwick Road, Peckham, London SE15 4PY.

XANTHORHOE BIRIVIATA BORKH (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE) IN KENT – On the night of 30th July 1986 a female *biriviata* came to my garden light trap. This would appear to be the first record of this species in Kent. About 60 ova were obtained before the moth died 3 days later. A brief search in the wood behind my house yielded a few plants of *Impatiens parviflora*, so it seems probable that there is a breeding colony in the vicinity. DENNIS O'KEEFE, 50 Hazelmere Road, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent.

A FURTHER BRITISH RECORD OF OPSIPHANES TAMARINDI FELDER & FELDER (LEP.: NYMPHALIDAE, BRASSOLINAE). – Further to the records listed by Bristow (1986, *Ent. Rec.* **98**: 96-97). I can report a further British specimen of this species. On 2nd February, 1984, an adult male was discovered in a greengrocer's shop in Leicester in a box of bananas originating from Colombia. The specimen is now in the collections at New Walk Museum, Leicester, where it was identified by Miss A. D. Lomas. – D. A. LOTT, Leicestershire Museums Service, 96 New Walk, Leicester.

EGG BATCH SIZE IN THE DUKE OF BURGUNDY – Further to the observation by Adrian Riley (*Ent. Rec.* **97**:190) on the size of *lucina* egg batches when he found twelve eggs on one leaf of cowslip (*Primula veris*), I feel this may have been due to inclement weather, especially high winds, when a female is confined to a single leaf rather than being free to randomly distribute her eggs on available plants.

This could explain why, on 8.vi.1986, in a Buckinghamshire locality, my seven year old daughter found a batch of 16 eggs on one leaf, after my wife had found one batch of 5 and another of 3 on the same cowslip plant. I may add that I found two batches of 2 eggs after a long search! This locality has also produced two examples of ab. *leucodes* Lamb. D. STOKES, 97 St. James Park Road, Northampton, NN5 5EU.

SITOCHROA PALEALIS D. & S. (LEP.: PYRALIDAE) IN MID-KENT – On 1st August 1985 a single fresh specimen of this species came to m.v. light at East Malling. This is the first record of *palealis* for this site, and was followed by a second on 21st August 1985.

Now, in 1986, a third pristine *palealis* was captured at m.v. during the night of July 16th, raising the question of whether there might be a colony nearby. The principal larval foodplant, *Daucus carota* (wild carrot) grows locally, in quite high density in parts of the tetrad. *Palealis* is well established in parts of North Kent, along the Thames estuary, and it remains to be seen if the East Malling moths are from a local colony. We would welcome any further records from mid-Kent. D. A. CHAMBERS, 15 Briar Close, Larkfield, Maidstone and M. A. EASTERBROOK, 28 Orchard Grove, Ditton, Maidstone, Kent.

TRIAXOMASIA CAPRIMULGELLA STT. IN S. E. LONDON. – Between about 1977 and 1983 I was accustomed to pay frequent visits in late June and July to a balsam poplar in Maryon-Wilson Park, Charlton, having in its trunk a smallish aperture giving access to a cavity, in which certain interesting Diptera were breeding. (Unfortunately, new growth has for some years been steadily closing up the entrance, thus effectively putting an end to further investigation of the cavity.) From time to time a small, pale-spotted Tineid moth was found at rest on the bark by the hole, on its rim, or just inside it, having obviously bred out of the rotten wood in the interior – which usually contained water to a varying depth. Recently I had the opportunity of showing a specimen to Mr. E. C. Pelham-Clinton, who recognized it as the rare and very local *T. caprimulgella.*

It is possible that this species has not previously been associated with poplar, the usual host trees being beech, oak, and elm (cf. Pelham-Clinton in Emmet, 1979, *Field Guide Smaller Brit. Lep.:*42). Whether it was taken in this district in former days I do not know, having no data on the Tineidae from 'Woolwich Surveys'. From conversation with Lt.-Col. Emmet I understand that *T. caprimulgella* is very seldom met with anywhere now that it is no longer to be found in Hyde Park, London; indeed it seems likely that the old elms on which the moth used to occur are now gone. A. A. ALLEN.

A LEOPARD IN BRIEF – As a museum biologist I receive my my fair share of 'silly' telephone calls: Alleged scorpions which inevitably turn out to be devil's coach-horse beetles *Staphylinus olens*, and 'snakes' which are inevitably old discarded sections of hose-pipe under the hedge! Accordingly I was, at least initially, un-moved by a recent call from a lady who claimed to have found a strange 'thing' in her husband's underpants! As the conversation progressed however, my mind began to positively boggle: "Its long and fat and covered in spots" the caller informed me, and "its doing funny things with little orange balls". A few delicately worded and *very* cautious questions later, I was able to ascertain